

Our Final Big Local Plan

2022- 2025

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This is our final Big Local Plan

This is our 4th plan since starting the Big Local programme.

This plan brings together all the work we have done since the beginning, explains all about the whole programme, how it works and where we are up to at the date of completing this plan, how we plan to leave a Big Local legacy and where we intend to carry on.

It complements all of our consultations from the very first one we led in 2012 to our last one in 2021.

It brings together all our plans by maintaining projects we have completed and continuing some of the projects we have ran and in some ways joining them together to help them grow into larger projects.

Our priorities in this plan are:

Places

- Our Community Hub
- Our Park & Open Spaces

Projects

- Compassionate Communities
- Brereton Can
- Our Charity

People

- Trustees/ Partnership
- Residents/ Volunteers
- Staff

This final plan will run until 2025.



Places



Projects



People

What is Big Local?

Big Local is a project by The National Lottery Community Fund, managed by Local Trust.

Funding 150 areas in England providing at least £1 Million to each Community.

Nothing like Big Local has ever existed before!

The project challenges residents to make their own decisions on what is best for their own area with the support of the money: hoping that this will give them the skills to become empowered, resilient, dynamic and asset-rich communities.

The Big Local Programme is to be:

- **Resident-led**
Working directly with individuals living, working, studying and playing in areas rather than through organisations; building confidence and capacity amongst those wanting to make a difference to their community and their local area.
- **Non-prescriptive**
Enabling residents to spend on their own terms and in their own time, on the projects they judge to be most important to them.
- **Patient and non-judgemental**
Giving communities the time and opportunity to learn, make mistakes, resolve disagreements and overcome challenges for themselves, on their way to achieving their ambitions.
- **Accompanied by flexible and responsive support**
To help communities to build the confidence and capability to make the most of the opportunities available to them, whilst not constricting their own ambition and initiative.

In 2012 the village of Brereton and Ravenhill were selected as one of the 150 Big Local areas from around England. With each area having a Resident Led Partnership that determines the day-to-day running of their local areas. The Partnership groups are not part of any Council; they are all local residents.

The Programme aims for us to become:

- Communities who will be better able to identify local needs and take action in response to them.
- People who will have increased skills and confidence, so that they continue to identify and respond to needs in the future.
- The community that will make a difference to the needs it prioritises.
- People who will feel that their area is an even better place to live.

The money is there to help us bring together local residents to help us become resident led areas and make our areas better places to live. To improve our residents lives, to do flash one-off projects if we wish and to support the improving of skills, ambitions and talents of our residents with this unique opportunity.

By the time we had got the money in 2015, we had more of an understanding of how we needed to work, what spends we needed and had identified a need for faster payments. We let LTOs apply for the roles and we decided the current CVS at the time that could support us with a lot more than just a finance service.

Later our CVS merged with other CVS groups around Staffordshire and re-branded as Support Staffordshire. We have been with them since the beginning of having our first plan approved to our 2021 plan.

In 2021 we needed to write a Legacy statement to Big Local and to write our final plan. We ran a consultation asking our residents what they thought we should do after our time with Big Local and whether they would like us to continue.

We have decided to become a Charity and so felt it was time to become our own LTO now. This means we could become fully ready to begin life as an independent charity after the Big Local/ Local Trust programme has ended. Whilst we still have the full support of Support Staffordshire, Big Local and the 150 areas.

“We believe there is a need to put more power, resources and decision-making into the hands of local communities, to enable them to transform and improve their lives and the places in which they live”.

What We Cannot Do:

We cannot fund things that are a statutory responsibility of a local authority, such as potholes, Churches and other Charities.

We cannot hold on to the money after 2026. It has to be spent by that year or the money goes back to National Lottery Community Fund.

We cannot fund what we want without consulting residents, we must make a plan and ensure we have done a consultation and ensure that what we are doing is for the needs of our residents and community.

Plans

We produced our first plan to Big Local in 2015 – A 2 year plan 2015-2017.

Our Second plan was produced in 2017-2018 and we produced a 1 year plan due to not completing the first projects we had aimed for in the first plan.

Our third plan was produced in 2018 - A 3 year plan 2018- 2021 which didn't go as planned due to the pandemic, which none of us had prepared for.

This is our final plan produced 2021 – A 4 year plan to end our ten year programme with Big Local. (2022-2026) All our plans have been created using information gathered from surveys in our area.

Like Big Local who are managed by Local Trust. We all also have an LTO (Locally Trusted Organisation) who oversee our money. This has been set up to support us to help us plan and run our projects with ease, less worries about our finances and being financially responsible for £1 Million pounds.

When we first started we were given £20k to use for research, to run events, to help with running surveys and to write our first plan. Our first LTO holding this money was Brereton Parish Council. Unfortunately, they still worked with cheques and this process was very slow. This led us to hire a support worker via our local CVS.

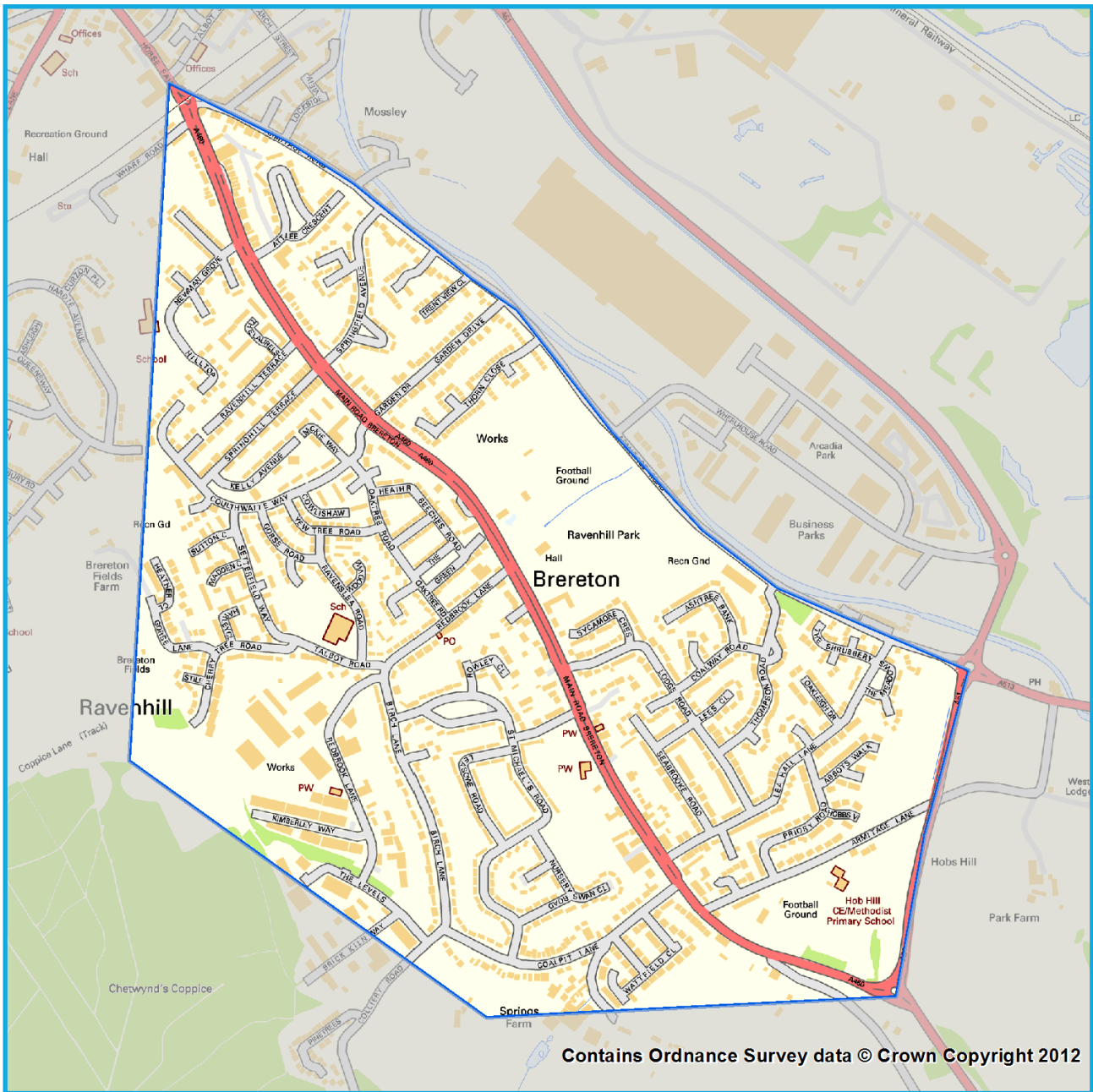
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About our Big Local Area

Brereton & Ravenhill

Historically a small, picturesque village, Brereton has had various roles including serving major stagecoach and canal routes, 200 years of coal mining, energy creation and modern commerce.

Made up of both urban and rural areas, Brereton and Ravenhill adjoin the market town of Rugeley and the UK's smallest mainland AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Cannock Chase. It contains the

whole of the Brereton conservation area as well as parts of two other conservation areas and ten listed buildings. Brereton also contains many different community organisations and clubs.

As well as three Primary Schools and independent businesses, we are fortunate to have many open green spaces located in our community that are widely used by all generations.



Comments collected in consultations and surveys

“

“Why I love living in Brereton! It’s the simple things like people blasting their horn or saying hello when you’re in the garden. The welcome when I go for a drink in the Miners, the community spirit that exists among so many of the locals which is also seen every Remembrance Sunday when so many turn up to pay their respects. It’s great being a local DJ and sharing in lots of celebrations with friends, but it sums it all up by saying that my wife was ill in hospital some years ago and was sent over 200 cards and that’s why I love Brereton”.

Ken Rowbotham, Resident

”

“

“I feel useful and part of a team helping to meet the needs of the community. Its also good for my mental health”.

Chris Lowries, Volunteer

”

“

“It has kept me sane and has been a wonderful experience meeting so many great people looking out for one another”.

Sir Peter Fahy, Partnership

”

“

“You do an amazing job in our community. Throughout the pandemic you have made it well known that you are there if anyone needs any help and support. You all jumped to it when everything else shut down and were so unselfish putting yourselves at risk in something none of us ever thought we would see. In other areas the things you have created for Brereton are brilliant. The woodland walk, special events for us all to enjoy and the planters around the village to make it look pretty to name just a few”.

Annette Leddra, Resident

”

Brereton in Numbers...



60-77%

of residents from different backgrounds felt they belonged in their community

6,587 Residents in Brereton



24%

Have limiting life long illnesses



102

Homes in Brereton are over-crowded



224

Crimes reported between Sept 2020 - Aug 2021

17.2%

of residents are high blood pressure



58%

of residents are active



12.8%

of residents have depression



15.4%

of residents are obese

4.8%

of residents aged 15 years smoke regularly



75%

of residents are active twice a month



33%

Have no qualifications

Local Insight profile for Brereton - OCSI 2021



What we have achieved so far...

Parks

From the very beginning, our residents told us that they “loved our park and it was the heart of our community. However, it was very dated with limited play equipment and children over 6 years old didn’t enjoy playing in there for long”. So, we got to work creating designs for a new play park. We held sessions with our 3 primary schools including all the school years.

We went along 3 times and the first time we asked what types of equipment would you like to play on. Leaving them with a free imagination. The second time we went out and found the best types of equipment they had told us about and got them to pick their favourites. The third time we went to play equipment companies and using the children’s’ favourites we got the play equipment companies pieces and showcased them individually and let the children all choose 3 each. Each time we tallied them all up and worked with the children’s’ favourite pieces. We then went to play equipment companies and asked them to design our parks, but we had a large paddling pool and we wanted it to fit in with our park when it was and wasn’t filled up. So we asked for themed designs like castles so the paddling pool could be integrated, e.g. a seaside theme then the pool could be the sea etc.

Once the designs came back we showed them to the children and they loved the designs, so we set out to showcase them to adults, families and everyone around the village. Always ensuring that the children were the ones who had driven the designs. This was a lovely project and the final design is beautiful and just what we hoped for. But we learned a lot. We were not prepared for the 4 and a half years this took to complete due to the time it took to work with the council and have all their requirements in place. We also hit the hottest summer ever just as the park equipment went in, meaning we couldn’t get fresh grass laid.

We had to sign an agreement with a local grass company to say we would take responsibility for the grass and water it day and night to try and get it to set. Whilst running activities weekly to ensure residents weren’t too disappointed that we had the park closed and for longer than planned. We celebrated finally with a mermaid and pirate-themed party and everyone was really happy, the best part

about our play park now is even in winter the park is thriving. You would never see a soul using it over Christmas but you go down on boxing day now and there are loads of families.

Our next project in the park was our running track. You could hardly tell we still had a running track due to the amount of grass and weeds which had grown over it. With the help of our Volunteering youth group and volunteers, we dug it back out. We then hired a contractor to resurface it. And now we have a local running group, a target sprint group and own youth running group and local residents using it regularly.

We then added an Outdoor Gym. We felt by this time we had a lot of experience and we could easily handle an outdoor gym. We ran a consultation at our events and spoke with sports people to see if the pieces we were looking at work together. We then went to see various other outdoor gyms and were led by the council. Once again timescales didn’t go to plan and we found that the weather conditions were too hot to lay the tarmac.

We have had several issues with our outdoor gym pieces which we are still working on. But hiring a project manager has been the most efficient way of dealing with these issues. We have had instructors from our local gym running sessions to teach residents how to use the gym correctly which has worked out great. We see a variety of ages use the equipment throughout the day from young to old. In hindsight, if we had to redo this project we would move it to a more open area of our park.

We have also created a woodland walk in our park, this has slowly started to have themed areas which our young people have designed. We have a wood buddies group who spend many hours creating items and so far they have created mud kitchens, a forest school area and are working on a fairy trail.

The young people wanted to have an area where they could remember people who they had lost and so they set to work clear an area and make a wall. The wood buddies we have now created several walls and plaques with the names of people who passed recently from our area and created many items to set the scene. These were all made using recycled items.

Open Spaces

From the beginning our residents wanted us to bring back the village feel. They wanted us to replace the old rusty metal bus shelters, bring flowers and plants to the village, and generally help clean up the area. Over the years we have put welcome plant pots at the two ends of our village. Followed on with a wooden bus shelter by our war memorial, which later saw in 2020 us replacing a further 10 more. At the very beginning, residents were asking us to clean up and look after our War memorial and even before we had the money we started to look after this to show we meant business and were listening.

Over the current 10 years, we have worked with the County Council to re-tarmac the flooring, designed and installed poppy fencing, had the memorial stone and wall professionally cleaned, planted plants and continue to maintain with the help of youth groups and residents. We are also a big part of the Remembrance service, assisting in the parade road closures, laying the crosses each year, and ensuring the British Legion have all they need to make the day a success. We also organise regular litter picks in the area and now have our own regular litter buddies group.

Community Fund

Our Community fund started with a pot of £500 for local groups to go along to our version of a 'Dragons Den'. Where they would be asked two questions 1. What they knew about Brereton Million? 2. What do they need funding for? They were encouraged to bring as many members along so that they all heard about us and we could hear about them. This worked for a few years but after a while, we started to see regular groups returning. We then decided to try having groups write into the Partnership direct and if more information was needed they could if they wished, come along to a meeting. Over the years we have funded many community groups from football kits, first responder equipment, day trips, OAP Christmas parties, to starting equipment for the Scout band.

One of the things the Community fund has funded in 2014 was our Youth Group. It was going to close down so we supported it to stay open. We have had lots of ASB over the years in the park and we had to stop the youth group for a few months whilst we got a handle on this. When the Youth leader went to reopen the youth group she asked the young people how they should advertise and they said by showing all the volunteering they help with. This gave her an idea and together the young people redeveloped the youth group into a volunteering youth group, where they volunteer for projects which support development in the community which match their interests. They then earn rewards like free meals, trips, camps, tuition, counselling and funding to other

groups. In 2021 they developed even further and launched a fishing, forest school and running youth group. They are just looking to re-brand to become the Visions youth group and looking to expand even further.

Skills

We had a request for all sorts of skill support and in the very beginning, we started to work with the WEA to fund courses for residents. When this lady retired she enjoyed working with us so much she became a Partnership member and skills project lead. We have run various courses over the years from computer support, crafts and British sign language being the top favourites. We also funded 5 defibrillators around the village and ran various types of first aid courses from basic to paediatrics. Our aim was to provide as many residents as possible with some first aid skills.

Brereton Grows

Brereton Grows started from a project in Todmorden. A couple of our members went on a trip to see how their project ran and came back so enthusiastic and excited they were determined to set up something similar. We started by putting two planters by Hob Hill Primary school and tried to get them planted regularly. This wasn't a huge success so we moved them and put them in the village and then added more, putting planters around our village and asking residents to take ownership, which slowly became a better achievement. We also funded a local group that had plots at an allotment. To start a community gardening group with St Joseph's Primary school, we funded the gravel for their path, a wooden classroom and they still have them gardening once a week which has been a huge success.

Events

From our very first consultation, we had residents asking us to build a cinema. We knew we wouldn't get much out of our money if we built a cinema so to celebrate the success of us getting the Million pounds we put on an open-air cinema event, which was very new in our area. We had around 3000 residents each night and played our own video to let residents know about what we had done and what we had planned to do. We continued to run these for a few more years until they became quite popular and many areas around us now run them.

We also started a Christmas event, our Winter wonderland. We first did this in our park. It was a great success until the last night when the wind got up and ripped through half of the event. We then moved it to our community centre and it was even more successful. We started our own lantern parade and ran this every year, until 2020 when the pandemic hit. Over the years we have had the Primary schools, community groups, church and our scout band leading parades.

We've done other events, including a Bark in the Park event where we had all our local dog owners and lovers attend for a full day of shows, competitions, first aid and we highlighted the dangers of dog poo. We have run various events and competitions over the years but the events above have been our top attended events.

Brereton Community Hub

There was no plan to take on a building so when the chance came along we were all like deer in headlights. We found out our community centre was going to auction and within weeks. So, we needed to move fast. This included getting signatures from residents on a petition to say they wanted to save it. A community right to buy order. Then a new project plan to Big Local to say we needed to do this. Plus we weren't a legal body so we had to become a Community Interest Company (CIC) A lot of work had to happen, meetings, solicitors, surveys etc. But we did it and several long months later we got the keys.

We opened the door and we pulled the kitchen apart in those first few minutes. So, we decided we needed to refurbish it before we even thought about opening the doors. We all got stuck in and two and a half months later we opened the doors to the public. The Hub is now our home and we hold all our meetings and have started some of our community groups there too. We have also added a portable office which helps as we are now on the map and accessible for our residents and volunteers.

Programme Delivery Support

We have spent money to market ourselves but this has helped to get our name on residents lips and used mainly when running consultations. We also needed a Programme delivery Support pot as all organisations have admin needs whether it is printing, IT needs, basic office supplies etc. We also have had a Support Worker who we hired for 12 Months to help us collect our consultation work at the very start. We then decided we needed support putting that first plan together and added an extra 6 months to her contract.

Once that was finished we realised that they had established a really good connection with the village; residents, community groups, businesses etc. So we asked her to stay and she is still with us today and has been invaluable to us. Staffing is value for money as we cannot all be in daytime and evening meetings as many volunteers work and have family commitments. In Sept 2021, we decided we now need an admin assistant as we are growing at a phenomenal rate and the workload is getting very heavy for us as a group.

And then came the pandemic...

Our 2018-2021 plan was completely on target and going quite nicely. We had weekly drop-in sessions

for volunteers and were running coffee mornings, CV builders on top of the volunteer's offers. Alongside all our other projects. We started to launch a health and wellbeing project - Brereton Can where our District Council recognised us and were working with us and using us as a pilot ready to launch it as a District campaign. The launch started quite nicely at the end of 2019 and we had made really good new links especially with our local doctors.

Covid Support Group 2020 -2021

The Pandemic hit us in March 2020. The news was playing with us for a few weeks before the first lockdown and when it finally hit, to be honest with you, I think we were all a little excited like we were all having a holiday at home for a couple of weeks. Like you were a school kid being sent home from School cause the boiler had packed in. How very wrong we all were!

Just one walk to the local Co-op shop changed that feeling instantly. I saw one of our eldest residents was out and our streets were deadly silent so seeing elderly people out was strange. So I asked 'what you doing out' To find out her son who she lived with, had covid and had been told to stay in his room and isolate. She had been watching the news for the last couple of weeks, alone and scared only seeing bad news figures and the rates of tens of thousands around the world dying each day. She had gone four days without any food and finally plucked up the courage to go to the shop. This is when I thought there must be more residents like this.

Working with the Co-op I started a huge drive knocking on doors. Slowly through appeals, I was joined by more volunteers. Partnership members organised food from their sources and had weekly meetings on zoom to ensure we had what was needed to keep the drive going. Volunteers became coordinators as the more we knocked on doors the more issues we found, no food, people in need of prescriptions, no school supplies, kids fed up, adults fed up, mental health at an all-time low, suicides, domestic abuse, no income; the list goes on. We created anything that was needed. Craft supplies, stationery, IT, Gardening kits, Food parcels, Competitions, Mental health support kits, PPE and more.

We worked so well together and had a record number of volunteers. We had many businesses and organisations join us and our relationship with the District, County and Town council is now thriving. We have learned so much and have such a positive working structure to take away from the most awful time which we are not out of completely yet. We are left with a struggling community that we will try to lead by remembering how strong we were when times were at their toughest and keeping that together moving forward.



For our final consultation we were right in the middle of the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Not the easiest of times to run consultations and certainly not the way we had hoped for.

So, we set up a consultation team and got to work trying to create different questions to what we had done in past consultations. We really wanted residents to reflect on the current times as we felt we as a community were working really well. But at the same time had found many new issues in our area like many had around the Country.

Many residents were lonely and isolated, mental health was at an all time low and employment was at an uncertain time for many. We really wanted residents to think about the current situations but to try to imagine themselves at least 10 years older than they are now. Along with them deciding if they still wanted us to continue when our time with Big Local finishes.

We decided due to the pandemic to create a Google docs survey with multiple-choice answers and an option for people to expand on their answers if they chose to. This way we could text, email, share the link on all social media platforms and complete the survey on our tablets at our drop in sessions at our

community tables around the village with residents together.

We had been running surveys this way to check in our volunteers and get their feedback through the pandemic to ensure they were ok and if we needed to do anything to add extra support and so felt our volunteers knew how to use this system and could help our community to complete the survey too.

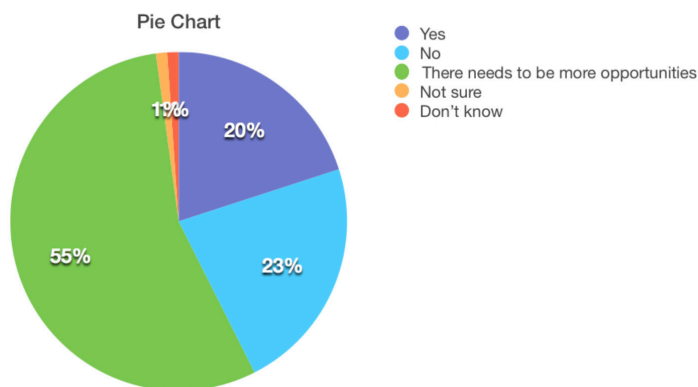
We then led several community planning sessions with our Partnership, Coordinators and Volunteers to really explore our past consultations, projects and ensure there was nothing we hadn't missed or needed to revisit.

We looked at projects that came up regularly in all of our consultations over the years. We then looked at how we could re-energise projects to give them a new 'facelift' and bring a fresh lease of energy to them.

We looked at how we could fund each project and how each project should be organised, learning from how we had created our Covid Support group and continuing to work with businesses and other community groups.

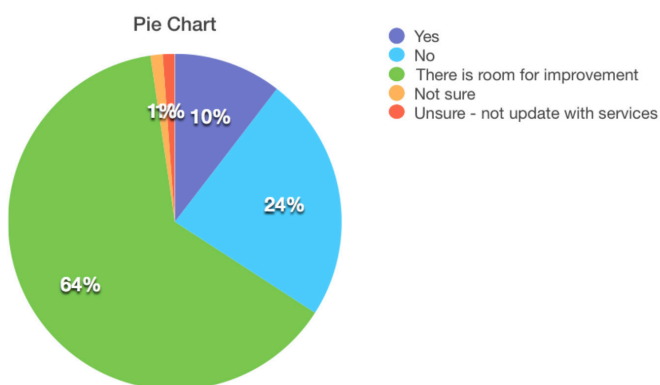
Our Consultation

Do you think there are enough services for young people to learn new skills in the village?



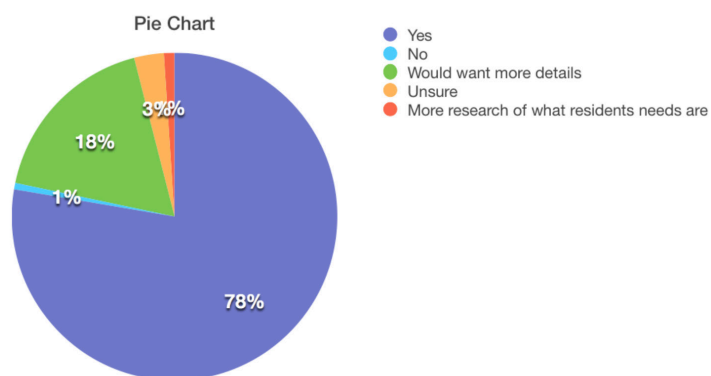
Answers	Results (%)
Yes	18
No	21
There needs to be more opportunities	51
Not Sure	1
Don't Know	1

Do you think there are enough services for disabled residents in the village?



Answers	Results (%)
Yes	9
No	20
There is room for improvement	54
Not Sure	1
Unsure	1

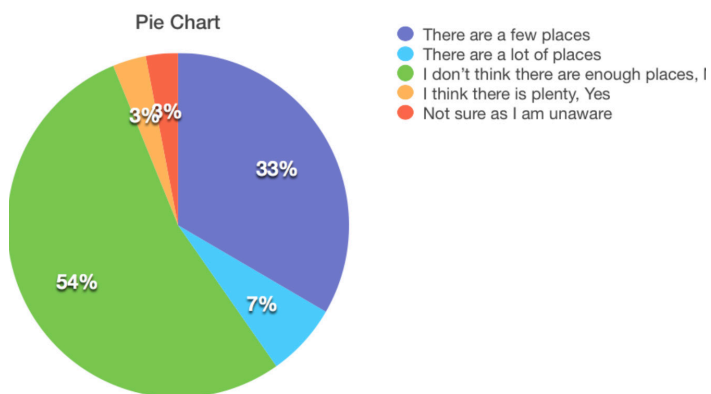
Do you want to see continued support for Open Spaces? Like the ongoing work in Ravenhill Park?



Answers	Results (%)
Yes	91
No	0
Would want more details	2
Unsure	2
More research	1

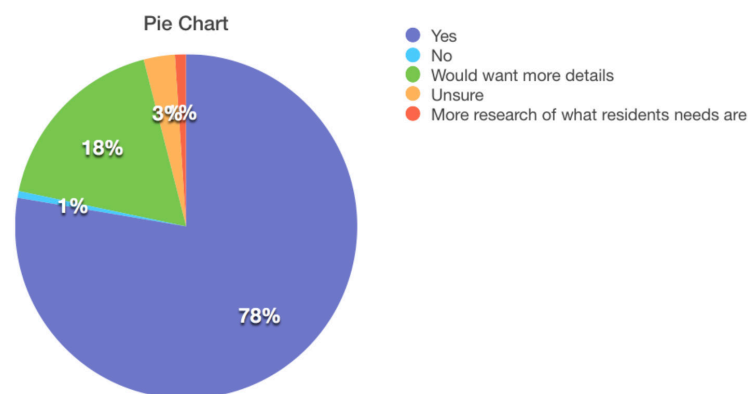
Our Consultation

Do you think there are enough services for adults to learn new skills in the village?



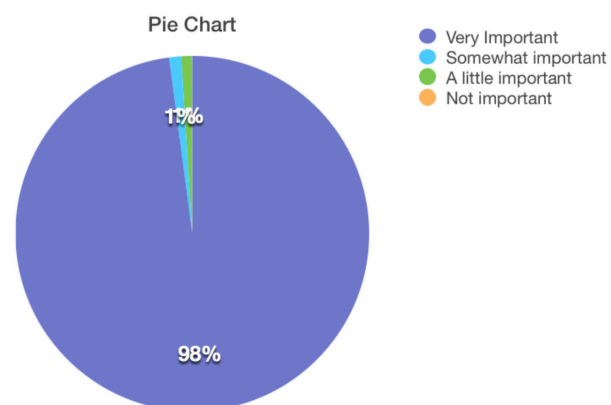
Answers	Results (%)
There are a few places	33
There are a lot of places	7
Not enough spaces	54
Yes	3
Not sure	3

Would you be happy to have a larger purpose-built building with facilities and services to cover the things mentioned in this survey?



Answers	Results (%)
Yes	78
No	1
Would want more details	18
Unsure	3
More research	1

How important is it to support residents who are isolated and lonely?



Answers	Results (%)
Very Important	98
Somewhat Important	1
A Little Important	1
Not Important	0

From 2017 to 2019, we were busy working as a Partnership delivering our 4-year plan, which was working on target.

Unfortunately as we hit early into 2020 along came the Pandemic, which put a stop to many of our planned projects.

This however did not stop us as a Partnership. It allowed us to learn and progress, allowing us to support the community more than we'd done before with the running of our Covid support group.

Our system of working has adapted and changed, modernised to work with our Partnership and volunteers. Our Covid Support group brought together a whole new way of working together. Seeing new strengths between volunteers, community groups, businesses, schools and councils.

New ways of working together through technology were learned and skills gained. This has been learned from and will support the way we work on our plan over the next 4 years. This year 4 plan will map out looking after some of our successes and will see new projects that will bring a connection together of all our projects.

Systems and Processes

Our first 3 Plans operated across some key theme areas separating the workload into project themes. Each theme had a sub-group where Partnership members took ownership of the project and worked with any volunteers to keep the project moving. Many Partnership members became subgroup members on several groups. They had the autonomy to operate independently of the formal partnership. The projects had an allocated budget and updated the Partnership

regularly in meetings. Not all subgroups had formal meetings or minute meetings.

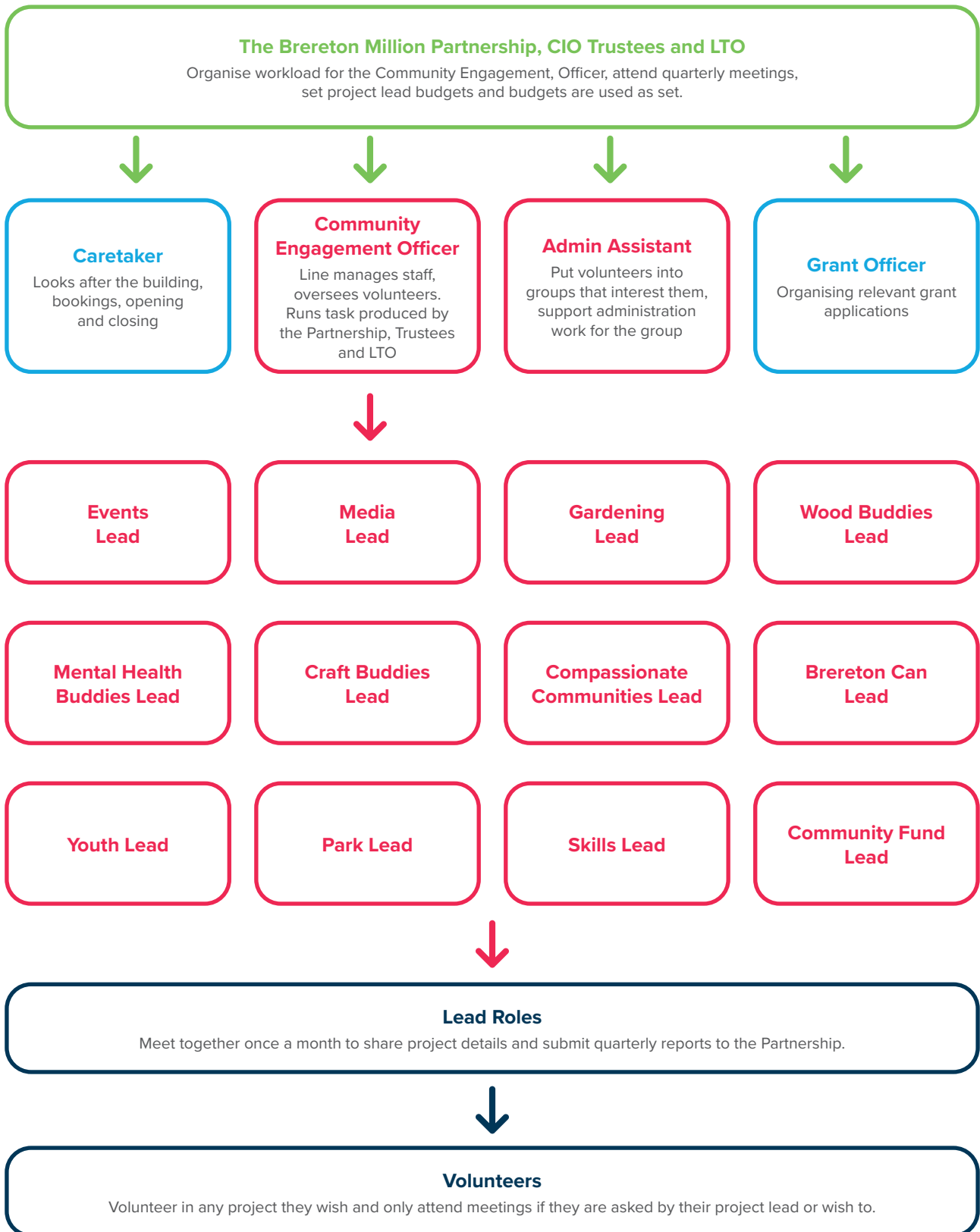
We planned to have 4 Partnership meetings a year and 8 delivery meetings a year where the Partnership meetings would be formal with our LTO invited and our delivery meetings just discussing where projects were at.

For our final Plan we aim to have Key theme areas again but changing them from the first four plans to themes, from what we have learned to date, but also to help join our projects together. We aim to be working as a Charity so we can continue after our Big Local plan ends so we plan to start working like this from 2022.

To do this we will have 4 Partnership/ Trustee meetings a year where those meetings will be responsible for organising finances, budgets, and making sure projects are on course. We will have coordinators of each theme projects and they will be asked to join together to have monthly coordinator meetings to ensure all projects continue to work together and they will be asked to submit a quarterly report to the Partnership/Trustees for budget and project support/approval.

Each Partnership/Trustee will be a mentor to each coordinator role. We also have a large number of volunteers who will not be asked to attend meetings unless coordinators need them too. They will be welcomed if they would like and have an open invitation. All members in all roles will be invited to our Annual AGM.

Going Forward



Our Group Values



We strive to generate opportunities to **bring the community together**.

We will ensure we **maximise the value for money** when considering how to spend the community's £1,000,000, always **putting Brereton and Ravenhill residents first**.



We **listen to and respect other persons** contributing to the project.

We act with **integrity, honesty and commitment** and take pride in our work.



We will take **ownership of issues** where appropriate and are **accountable** to our residents.

We will work hard to **improve** our physical environment and **upgrade** public spaces.



Finance Breakdown

Places	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	TOTAL
Brereton Community Hub	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
Support for Utilities				
On going repairs & maintenance				
Staff				
Refurbishment				
New Building / Refurb	£5,000			£5,000
Ravenhill Park				
New equipment/ improvements	£3,000	£2,000	£2,000	£7,000
Woodland walk	£800	£800	£800	£2,400
Community Cafe		£10,000	£1,000	£11,000
Open Spaces				
War Memorial	£250	£250	£250	£750
Bus stops	£100	£100	£100	£300
Tidying up sites	£250	£250	£250	£750
Current HUB refurb	£15,000			£15,000
			Total	£57,200

Projects	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	TOTAL
Brereton Can				
Feel Well	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£12,000
Budget Well	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£3,000
Naturally Well	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£7,500
Connect Well	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£7,500
Eat Well	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£4,500
Sleep Well	£1,000	£1,000	£1,000	£3,000
Manage Well	£2,500	£2,500	£2,500	£7,500
Move Well	£4,000	£4,000	£4,000	£12,000
Compassionate Communities				
Community Fund	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£30,000
Community Transport	£500	£500	£500	£1,500
			Total	£88,500

Finance Breakdown

People	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	TOTAL
Volunteer Expenses	£500	£500	£500	£1,500
Member Training				
Project Delivery Support				
Admin	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000	£30,000
Grant Writer				
Community Engagement Worker	£25,000	£25,000	£25,000	£75,000
Skills	£5,000	£15,000	£5,000	£25,000
Youth Work projects	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000	£60,000
Programme Delivery Support				
Marketing Brereton Million Branding, communication.	£5,000	£3,000	£5,000	£13,000
Volunteer support I.T Equipment organisation support.	£5,000	£3,000	£3,000	£11,000
Equipment	£500	£500	£500	£1,500
Venue Hire				
LTO Support ** separate.	£8,300	£8,300	£8,300	£24,900
Events	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
			Total	£256,900

Contingency	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	TOTAL
	£5,000	£5,000	£5,000	£15,000
			Total	£417,600



Brereton Can

We will work hard to improve our physical environment and upgrade public spaces.

We started the Brereton Can campaign in 2019 but had to change the dynamics of it due to the pandemic, we asked our District Council to look at the project and look at the proposal of rolling it out as a district campaign, which we are really pleased that they have agreed to adopt.

The Can campaign started in Newcastle and is now taking shape around many areas around the Country. We aim to relaunch our Brereton Can project ensuring projects are linked under the new district campaign Cannock Chase Can to help people work on their health so they have a better understanding

of how they can improve the 8 areas of their wellness wheel:

Move well, eat well, feel well, connect well, naturally well, budget well, sleep well and manage well.

By doing this we can still run a number of projects but link them to the eight areas so if residents are having problems with a certain area in their wellness wheels, they will know that's the area they need to work on and will get involved.

This opens a whole new way for us to advertise projects but also to connect and encourage our community to work together and get healthy at the same time. Some parts of the 'well links' may also fit into several of the projects titles.



Connect Well

Connect Well is about making friends, giving and being involved in your community. This will see us putting together our volunteer roles, community litter picks, walk and talks, community cafe, street parties, community street gardening, events, parks projects



Eat Well

Eat well is all about making sure you are consuming a balanced, nutritional and proportion sized diet. For this we aim to really expand our Brereton Grows project and have more of the community growing fruit and veg. Teaching residents how to grow and harvest the planters, run cooking course for the whole family and explore how far we develop this project.



Feel Well

Feel well is having the skills and tools to self manage mental health and wellbeing. For this we hope to explore our woodland walk project and bring our forest school, craft and wood buddies together to create a mental health project in the woodland walk.



Naturally Well

Naturally Well is caring and connecting with nature and local green spaces, including Cannock Chase which is on our door step. We aim to support our residents getting connected to their green spaces, with street parties on our local greens, a walk and talk group who can venture all around our natural nature areas and look at more adult, youth and family forest school sessions.



Budget Well

Budget Well is about managing money, including budgeting, saving and dealing with debts. In the pandemic we took part in covid budget training sessions and connected with many groups to sign post residents for support. We aim to continue this and start budget training sessions along with looking into the housing and skills issues around the area. We also aim to continue our Community Fund pot to help community groups continue to grow and run/restart after the pandemic.



Manage Well

Manage Well is about having the right skills to cope with life and events, learning to ask friends, family and services for support. We aim to connect residents through a variety of events and starting a new tag line of 'Who's not here'? We aim to really look into services in the area like community transport for residents getting to community events and appointments.



Sleep Well

Sleep well is about making sure you are getting sufficient, relaxing, deep and routine led sleep. We aim to look at classes which can support this including meditation, yoga and relaxation.



Move Well

Move well is about being more physically active at work, play and through out the day. We aim to support this by maintaining what we have created in our park, the play equipment, woodland walk, running track and outdoor gym. We would also like to look into outside funding to gain a sports coach to help provide regular activities in the park for a variety of ages and a variety of activities both physical and gentle.

Compassionate Communities

We were awarded the Compassionate Communities award in September 2021 for our work supporting our Community during the pandemic and continuing.

We aim to continue to build a site for our bereaved residents, including a coffee morning, signposting services and we are looking at how else we can support this status going forward?

PLACES

Brereton Community Hub

The Hub is our home and certainly put us on the map when we had nowhere to go. We have found our selves out-growing the Hub the larger we get. We are looking to either refurbish the Hub or find other premises as we continue to grow.

There are pros and cons to our community building and the biggest downfall is that we are not on a public transport route which hinders many residents access to us.

The Park

The park is still the heart of our community and is one of our legacy projects. We aim to maintain what we have created but to also build on the woodland walk to create a mental health hub for the many who have been struggling with the effects of the pandemic, the grief of bereavement and general mental health issues of today's world. We aim to use what we have created as a place for skills to grow, together with looking at how we can create a community cafe and continue to use the area for future events to keep the community spirit growing.

PEOPLE

Young People

In 2014 we used our community to fund to save our local youth group from closing. This has continued to stay open and grown from strength to strength over the years. The young people are the community's

next future and need the skills to be able to have a chance to succeed. We have many heroes in today's youth who are currently surviving a pandemic.

This is a generation who will become the veterans of a global crisis. At such a very young age they have actually seen just how terrifying life can be, many of whom have had to step up, change their way of living and seen things they should never see at such young ages. When discussing life with these young people they want happy and healthy homes, they want to escape the digital labyrinth in which they are being trapped, they want to be outside in open spaces and they want to be happy and safe.

People

Just like our young people our community is trying to find a way of life living with Covid-19. It feels like it's never going away and it is always around the corner. Just when we think it is settling down huge case numbers rise again and the hospital wards turn into covid wards.

People desperately want face to face activities and meetings but we are now in winter and not only are we still fighting the pandemic but we are also fighting winter bugs like the flu, common colds and such. Dark nights and mornings are all around us and every week we hear of another case of suicide close to us. We need to support each other, equipped with other projects that connect and skill us, to be able to support us all.

Contingency

The purpose of any contingency pot is that if something happens or comes up unexpectedly depending on other occurrences, there is a back-up pot available. The contingency pot protects resources, minimises members inconvenience and identifies key issues, assigning specific responsibilities in the context of the recovery.

Brereton Million Legacy Statement

Our Legacy is all about maintaining what we have created in our village; the projects we have built, the connections we have made and ensuring our legacy of these long continue.

We believe by continuing to follow our Vision and group values our legacy will long continue.

We see our legacy as our projects joining together from what we have learned from the very beginning of our Big Local projects to our journey over the years and especially through the pandemic.

Our Legacy Projects

How it will work?

1. Project

Our Charity

We have consulted our residents and they do not want to see Brereton Million end at the final date of the Local Trust programme. We are extremely happy as a group to carry on and are in the process of turning our CIC (Community Interest Company) into a Charity (CIO) which gives us a better status and helps us with long term funding opportunities to help us to continue.

2. Project

Brereton Can

Just before the pandemic we were in the process of launching a health and wellbeing (Can) campaign which was first launched in Newcastle Upon Tyne and is now starting to take place around the country.

It is a health and wellbeing campaign where we find ways to support our residents with all aspects of their health and wellbeing. During the pandemic we had to change the style we approached and the way we worked but we covered many areas of residents' health and wellbeing, and this is an area that we want to continue to support, and which has been supported by our community in our consultation.

We had originally knocked on our district council's door before attempting the Brereton Can campaign and asked for them to make it a district campaign. They were not keen at first, but after working closely with them they are now ready to launch the Cannock Chase Can campaign. We feel we can build on the Brereton Can campaign by working with the district Can campaign to help both sides of improving resident's health and wellbeing.

We feel we have connected well with our residents and have learned so much from the various projects

we have run over the years. We feel we have found a way through the Brereton Can project where we can connect all our projects and link them together and really focus on the needs of our residents. We see this happening by leading our projects through the Can campaign and connecting them so that residents will be able to work on their 'wellness wheels'.

The Can campaign concentrates on the following themes:

Move Well, Budget Well, Connect Well, Naturally Well, Manage Well, Feel Well, Eat Well, Sleep Well.

All these areas need to be worked on to be able to have a healthy balance and we can support by putting our projects under these links so residents can get involved with areas they need to improve in their wellness wheel.

Move Well

Play Park, Running Track, Outdoor Gym

Budget Well

Budget Class, Apprentices,

Connect Well

Volunteering, Skills Courses, Craft buddies, Wood Buddies

Naturally Well

Forest School, Youth projects, volunteering

Manage Well

Cooking Class, Youth Group, CV Builders

Feel Well

Outdoor Gym, Play Park, Running track

Eat Well

Cooking class, Brereton Grows, Community Cafe

Sleep Well

Wellbeing group, Walk n Talk, Outdoor Gym, meditation classes

3. Project

Compassionate Communities Status:

We are the first group to receive the Compassionate Community Status, and this will be our Covid Support Group legacy.

Through our work during the pandemic, we set up a Covid support group and this is what brought us really close to our residents. We ran a food bank, collected shopping and prescriptions, and ran many groups that enabled supplies and activities to be given to all ages of residents. These consisted of; gardening packs, kids craft packs, crafting packs, PPE, hot meals for people who were poorly, mental health packs, food supplies and more.

We then created a phone buddies service for people who had no one to talk to, a welfare group to check on residents who we didn't hear from or who were hard of hearing and couldn't hear a buddy on the phone, check on residents when they were poorly and get them care. We knocked on every door in our village twice during the pandemic to ensure all our residents knew how to contact us if they needed anything.

We also supported residents with basic care support as well as palliative care, a friendly hand towards the end and supported family members organising houses and paperwork when loved ones had passed away.

We can now build on this by the connections we have made and continue to run groups to support the isolated and lonely residents of our village, support the skills that are needed and build on the volunteer base we have. We continue to build on the Memorial we have created and work to support our bereaved residents to equip them to support each other in times of need.

Where it will happen?

4. Places

Our Community Hub

We want to build onto our Community Hub ensuring the space we have enables us to be able to offer a variety of opportunities that fits into all our projects. We aim to extend the services of the Community

Hub to be able to offer more skill workshops so that we can train more residents with budgeting skills, apprentices, wood workshops and more. To be able to do this we intend to either build on the Community Hub or find bigger premises using outside grants to support this. This will enable us to run the skills side of the Brereton Can and Compassionate Communities legacy we have created.

5. Places

Park: Open Spaces

At the very beginning of Brereton Million and through every consultation, our residents tell us our Park is the heart of our community and we have invested a lot of time and money into making a destination park where people can spend all day. We intend to ensure the work we have created lasts and is looked after, and this also fits into our Brereton Can and Compassionate Communities projects. Creating a forest school for all ages so we can support skills and mental health issues that challenge many residents daily. We aim to build a community café so residents can truly spend all day, along with bereavement support inside our woodland walk.

Who will make it happen?

6. People

Brereton Million Partnership/Trustees

As we come to the last phase of the Local Trust/ Big Local program we are proud to say we still have several members on the Partnership who have been on-board from the very beginning. We have new members who have joined us along the way, and we have members who stood up during the pandemic. Together we have stood strong and learned things that we never knew we needed to know! We are in the process of running our own Charity and becoming our own LTO. But we are equipping ourselves with the right information and together we stand strong knowing we are making a difference. Ensuring we are following our consultations, our Visions, and our Group values at all stages!

How Will We Monitor Success?

Schedule

It is important that the project work undertaken is done so to a reasonable timescale and is completed by the date set by the Partnership. It is essential that we are aware of delays, expertise and landowner requirements are important when assessing how long each project should take to complete. Now that we are so far into the programme we have a better understanding of timescales and project management.

Scope

We aim with all projects to affect different community groups and to be as diverse as reasonably possible. For example, not all open spaces should be used for play equipment but it should be recognised that a number of uses are available. Having variety in the projects across the village should be considered preferable.

Budget

Our aims of the projects plan to be met within cost agreements. If additional expenses are incurred in excess of that agreement by the partnership then it might seriously affect the feasibility of the development.

Community Satisfaction

We aim to use our consultation and survey work to ensure our Community is giving their feedback. Highlighting any complaints along the way to adjust our plans to ensure the Community is happy so we can address our future planning.

Quality Of Work

We aim to ensure the high standards and longevity of work and that this is checked off when completing projects. To recognise that some projects may only be intended as temporary but that the quality of work should still remain to a very high standard at all times. Where external contractors are used a quality of work should be a condition maintained within and signed for in their contracts.

Productive

Nationally recognised awards and accolades should be important to the group and measuring success will be part of long-term plans. For example, Green Flag Awards and our current Compassionate Community

Status. The projects undertaken should be well used by the community and offer uses to areas that currently do not exist.

Photos

We will be able to measure success by using photographs. We can already see the difference many of our projects have taken in the first six years. We can see by the use of photographs what was in place before and what is currently in place now and we will continue to use this method. We can also use photos at events, consultations and meetings to be able to capture the essence of the room/ area, as in how people are feeling at the time.

Confidence

A good Project plan helps to keep your projects on pace with a deadline. Which means team members do not have to guess what they should be tackling next. It provides a good and positive boost of confidence to everyone in the project. Good project planning does not just neutralise project vibes, It's all right there in your plan.

Progress

A plan brings your team around a single project vision so they can power through tasks faster. Priorities are clear, expectations are aligned, and everyone knows exactly what needs to happen to cross the finish line on time. With a plan, your team can easily see how their work affects others and impacts the final deadline. This provides an extra boost of motivation to stay on track.

Communication

Communication is the most important tool we need when project planning. Creating a detailed plan is one the most effective tools we can use to keep everyone informed about our projects. A plan documents every important detail about each project, even when things change.

Stress

If we follow the plan this should minimise the stress. The plan holds the way we should run and operate to our vision and costly budgets. We should revisit our plan regularly to be able to stay on track. A good plan is like a manual with step to step instructions helping you along the way.

Team Work

TRUST

Confidence in one another's reliability and dependability

TEAMWORK

Appreciation of one another's talents and strengths and recognition that these talents and strengths enable everyone to tackle challenges together

EMOTIONAL LOYALTY

A deep-seated loyalty to the team

All members no matter which role they hold are valuable members to us. We aim to support them by matching them into projects that match their interests and encouraging them into the right roles.

Accountability

Team accountability makes projects run smoother. We are accountable to others, and it's up to us as a team and us as individuals to hold ourselves accountable to our community and to our organisations.

Plans that aren't documented don't hold anyone accountable. But when your team members can be called out on tasks in a plan which everyone has access to, it raises the stakes. Clearly outlining roles and responsibilities in your plan will push people to get things done on time and up to standard.

Team Over load

In the ideal world, our members would only work on one project at any time, making it easy to keep workloads balanced. But that kind of project focus is a luxury at most organisations. If we all play our roles moving forward and follow our set up, we have a huge chance of success, as we proved this was possible during the pandemic.

Mitigate Risk

Very similar to change, risk is always there when taking on projects. Whilst we cannot control every possible risk out there, we can put measures in place to limit the risks where possible. For example, a plan lets you monitor the pace of work to ensure you're not spending over your budget faster than expected and that the correct contracts are in place.

Fear of Change

You can't avoid project change, so you might as well embrace it. Over the years we have had big changes to our plans, a community centre that became available, a play park that we thought we could do in a year took 4 and a half and the pandemic. We are very good at adapting and despite common misconceptions, planning gives you the flexibility to adapt to change more easily so you have a better chance of hitting your project goals.

That's because a plan holds all the important project details in one place. When something unexpected pops up, you can weigh the potential impact on project scope, timing, and workloads and adjust your plan to forge a new path forward. When these updates are documented in your plan, it's easy to bring your team and stakeholders up to speed on the changes so you can all move forward successfully together.

Deadlines on Track

Having a project timeline can create measurable steps so we can track progress against the final deadline. If things start running behind, we can intervene early and determine what needs to shift to next step, which is extremely important with our final plan that we stay on course.



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